

medications. The agriculture bill allows the reimportation of medications that have been shipped abroad to be brought back into the country, presumably to be sold at lower prices.

What the Republicans want the American people to believe is that the pharmaceutical companies will send medications out of the country that they charge \$1 in this country for but only 30 cents in Canada, and they will allow them to come back in and be sold for 30 cents.

Mr. Speaker, this provision is a fraud. It allows the pharmaceutical companies to relabel the drugs so people will be confused about whether it is the same medication. It also allows them a 5-year sunset, and it also restricts the contracts when they sell them abroad. They will write a contract that says to the Canadians, "We are selling this to you, and you agree that you will not reimport."

This bill is filled with fraudulent information, but it is going to be the basis of 100 to 218 press releases today: "The Republicans have dealt with the problem of the cost of medications."

#### TEN THOUSAND CHICKENS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, reputations are earned. They take a long time to acquire, as one develops and improves his abilities.

Like those in centuries past who told tall tales about Paul Bunyan or Pecos Bill, it takes a certain talent to stretch the truth.

Well, there is another tall tale reported in the papers this morning that was spun some 20 years ago. It is a tale told by a Washington politician who liked to fancy himself a farmer.

He told his friends that he was once a chicken farmer. He said, "I have raised chickens myself, 10,000 at one time, 5,000 in each of two houses." The politician who told this tale was also the son of a politician so he grew up in Washington, not on a farm.

True, he would go back home to Tennessee once in a while to visit, but all those chickens, they were on another farm that he did not visit. He certainly did not raise 10,000 chickens.

This candidate has earned a place among the best spinners of yarns in America. He tells some of the best tall tales today. The tale of the 10,000 chickens is just one more tall tale from Tennessee. AL GORE spins a good yarn.

#### SENIORS WANT AN AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN THROUGH MEDICARE, NOT EMPTY RHETORIC

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, our seniors face skyrocketing prices of pre-

scription drugs. Many are forced to choose between purchasing their medication and buying groceries. For those skipping meals or missing rent payments, a prescription drug benefit is vital to returning dignity to their lives.

In July, this House passed an amendment to allow U.S. pharmacists to buy medications at the same low prices paid for in other countries, 20 to 50 percent less for the same drugs, and then we could pass those savings on to our seniors. It makes sense.

But last week in the dead of night the Republican leadership twisted this amendment into a deal full of loopholes so big that they could drive a truck through them.

The deal does nothing for seniors. It only protects the pharmaceutical industry profits. This compromise artificially restricts access to safe and affordable drugs abroad. It gives the drug industry a veto over all imports.

Our seniors deserve better. They deserve the same medications at the same prices that people are paying for overseas. It is time for the Republican leadership to stop using empty rhetoric. We should have a pharmaceutical plan that works. We ought to have a prescription drug benefit through Medicare.

If there must be reimportation, then in fact let us be able to reimport those drugs at a price our seniors can pay for.

#### WELCOME TO NEWBORN JACK CHRISTOPHER LINDGREN

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment this morning to welcome into this world Jack Christopher Lindgren, who was born just a couple of weeks ago, on September 21.

I want to congratulate his proud parents, Gary Lindgren, chief of staff in my office, and his lovely wife, Susan. I know they are delighted with their handsome baby boy.

There is some good news for little Jack. Thanks to a Republican Congress, his parents will enjoy a \$500 tax credit for their new child. That will help buy diapers and baby food and some of the clothing that babies seem to grow out of in a couple of weeks.

But here is a dose of reality for young Jack. Because of the steadfast opposition of the Clinton-Gore administration, Jack's parents will be paying a penalty again this year to the Internal Revenue Service.

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Their offense? They chose to be married. When Congress tried to correct that inequity in the Tax Code this year, President Clinton said no. There is hope for all of those American families who work hard every day to pay their taxes and support their families.

They will have a chance to reduce their tax burden by saying good-bye to the Clinton-Gore team.

Mr. Speaker, American working families deserve a break. Let us give it to them.

#### DRUG IMPORT PROVISIONS OF AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, sometimes I wonder whether the Republican leadership of this Congress reports to the public or to the prescription drug industry. The public sends a clear message that they are sick of unjustifiably high and blatantly discriminatory prescription drug prices.

Seniors are particularly vulnerable to overwhelming prescription drug expenses. Democrats offer a proposal featuring an optional Medicare drug benefit, drug prices discounted to reflect a collective bargaining power of 39 million Medicare beneficiaries, and a strategy for undercutting international price discrimination, the ability to reimport prescription drugs.

Republicans refuse to even consider price discounts for seniors, they emasculate the reimportation proposal, and then they sunset those weak provisions before they even have a chance to kick in.

A phony watered-down drug reimportation bill is marginally better than no bill at all, but I do not want a single American to be fooled into thinking that Republican leadership has been responsive to the prescription drug crisis. The only constituency they have been responsive to is the prescription drug industry.

#### DATABASE PROTECTION LEGISLATION

(Mr. COBLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, this will now be the third Congress in which legislation protecting databases has failed to become law. Over the past years, the opponents of such legislation have done all they can to prevent legislation from moving forward and maintain the status quo so they may pirate the work of others due to the current gap in protection. They first claimed there was no need for legislation. Then subsequently, they admitted there was, in fact, a need as long as they could get a carve-out for themselves.

How selfishly convenient. This issue will not go away. Now, more than ever, America's database producers need sufficient protection to ensure the continued investment in developing these information products. Their vulnerability remains as the pirates still sail without fear.

Rest assured, Mr. Speaker, I will do everything I can next session to finally